

La Choza Chula



ANNUAL REPORT

2015-16

HELPING LOCAL COMMUNITY BENEFIT FROM THE GROWING
TOURISM IN EL PAREDÓN, GUATEMALA.

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La Choza Chula (The Cool Shack) is a social enterprise (registered Community Interest Company no. 487948) based in El Paredón on the Pacific coast of Guatemala, established in June 2012.

OUR VISION

For coastal communities in Guatemala to benefit from quality education and sustainable local enterprise opportunities.

OUR MISSION

We support coastal communities in Guatemala to flourish through community development and tailored partnerships. We also work to enable tourists to leave a positive footprint during their travels.



DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

We are extremely proud that La Choza Chula, entering its fifth year of operation, continues to achieve our aim to help local people in El Paredon on the Pacific coast of Guatemala to benefit from the growing tourism to the area. This year has been a very eventful and exciting year for us all, not without challenges, but full of positive partnerships, new developments, and increased exposure including being featured in The Financial Times and The Guardian newspapers.

This year has seen the sharpest rise in tourism to date, with an estimated 1500 tourists visiting the village each month, daily buses to Guatemala City as well as the start of a new, tarmac road which will eventually link the village to the main road network. We have developed Chula Tours - our community tourism agency - in order to help local host families earn an income from showing tourists their way of life - offering activities such as Guatemalan cookery, homestays and tours into the mangroves and nearby turtle-feeding ground. This year we generated £4,500 for the

guides to present these sights to tourists with minimal impact to the environment and promoting their protection. We are delighted that Chula Tours won Q15,000 seed funding through the Guatemalan Sustainable Tourism Awards Programa Impulsa in order to develop our unique offer of tours and activities.

Central to our education programme this year was building a new computer laboratory with 17 new computers for the secondary school with partners Surf for Life, in order for the next generation to be able to access employment opportunities within the growing tourism industry by developing digital skills.

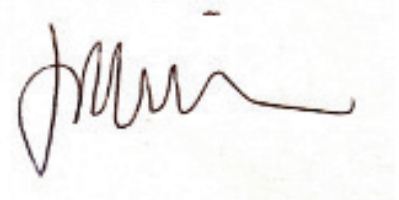
Literacy is key to employment and empowerment and our work to increase literacy levels included launching a mobile library, delivering 250 hours of class reading to 140 children, 179 hours of English classes and lending out 550 books. Education of local children is dependent on the quality of teaching and we supported teacher development by partnering with

local people to be entrepreneurial and we helped 7 women set up their own businesses through offering enterprise training and relaunched our range of products made by local people (yoga mat bags and surf board socks) - Chula Bags - which we promoted at the World Craft Fair in Antigua.

In terms of challenges, we have learnt a lot this year including the importance of setting clear expectations for interns and volunteers coming from more developed countries. As a result we have now an extensive induction process which is working well. An important achievement this year was to begin a more formal process of community consultation through a dedicated community advisory group, regular presentations at community meetings and clear visual materials which state how funds are spent.

On a personal note, this will be my final year as Director of La Choza Chula as I pursue new opportunities and Alex Bevan, Ben Crisp and Sonal Amin will take the organisation forward as Directors into the future. A huge thank you to the community of El Paredon, our amazing partners, funders, friends, volunteers and staff team for their support and passion to help make this organisation what it has become.

Un abrazo



Julia Harriman,
Executive Director / Co-Founder

THIS YEAR HAS BEEN A VERY EVENTFUL AND EXCITING YEAR FOR US ALL, NOT WITHOUT CHALLENGES, BUT FULL OF POSITIVE PARTNERSHIPS, NEW DEVELOPMENTS, AND INCREASED EXPOSURE INCLUDING BEING FEATURED IN THE FINANCIAL TIMES AND THE GUARDIAN NEWSPAPERS.

local economy through community tourism and new links with national and international tour operators will increase this next year.

We also want to help protect and celebrate the unique environment of this coastal area - the mangroves, turtles and birdlife that could so easily be destroyed - by employing local

Teachers to Teachers who facilitated locally-relevant maths teacher training. Addressing the issue of student disengagement during the long summer holiday, we ran a successful pilot 7 week summer holiday programme, attended by 81 children.

Increased footfall to the area through tourism has created opportunities for

YEAR IN NUMBERS

- 1 - NEW COMPUTER LAB BUILT IN CONJUNCTION WITH SURF FOR LIFE
- 4 - INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES WHO FEATURED US
- 7 - LOCAL WOMEN FORMED NEW BUSINESSES AS A RESULT OF OUR ENTERPRISE TRAINING
- 17 - NUMBER OF COMPUTERS IN OUR NEW COMPUTER LAB
- 50 - VOLUNTEERS WHO WORKED WITH US
- 81 - CHILDREN TOOK PART IN OUR SUMMER HOLIDAY PROGRAMME
- 140 - PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO ATTENDED OUR LIBRARY WEEKLY
- 300 - NUMBER OF BOOKS LENT OUT THROUGH OUR MOBILE LIBRARY
- 800 - INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS
- 2500 - FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS

OUR STORY

La Choza Chula was established in June 2012 by Founders Julia Harriman and Carla Thomas, who met in London working together on empowerment, employment and creative programmes with young people from disenfranchised communities. After leaving the UK to use their skills in Latin America, they spent time visiting and researching various non-profit organisations in Mexico and Belize. In Belize, they were particularly inspired by the Toledo Ecotourism Association and their unique model of community based tourism run by the local Mayan people in a remote rural setting. When they arrived in El Paredón in Guatemala, they were struck by the potential for a similar model due to the area's outstanding natural beauty, warm people, growing surf tourism and a lack of connect between tourists, local people and the local economy.

Staying at a local surf camp, by the end of their first week they had started to teach English in the school to enable locals to be able to communicate with tourists. A month later they started to run community tours employing local guides. Three months later they opened a workshop for young people to learn how to make and sell crafts to tourists. The organisation grew from there.

THE TEAM

JULIA HARRIMAN

Executive Director and Co- Founder
(maternity leave Sept-Dec. Part-time from Jan)

INTERNATIONAL STAFF

CARLA THOMAS

Creative and Community Manager / Co-Founder

GABY PEREZ

Librarian

BEN CRISP

Digital Media Manager

SANDRA CRUZ

Product Coordinator

ON-SITE STAFF

ALEX BEVAN

Business Development and Finance Manager

MAGGIE DELGER

Education Manager (July - Present)

MANUELA CEA-POBLETE

Education Manager (Oct-Feb)

INTERNS

PETER ILTCHEV, Education Intern (April - June)

EUGENE MALTHOUSE, Enterprise Intern (May - July)

BROCK MEASTAS, Sports and Communications Intern (September - December)

GIULIA PERON, Sales and PR Intern (March - June)

PHILIP STASINSKI, Education Intern (October - December)

NINA SCHWARTZ, Marketing Intern (October - December)

RITA CORTES VALENTES, Product Design Intern (September - February)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JULIA HARRIMAN

RON HARRIMAN

PROJECTS OVERVIEW



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

THE OJAH COMPUTER LABORATORY

93% of public elementary schools in Guatemala do not have access to technology. With tourism rapidly increasing in the community, digital knowledge is now paramount for its local population to access employment opportunities, self learning and be able to connect with the outside world. Working with Surf for Life again, following the highly successful partnership last year to build the

'PREVIOUSLY WE STUDIED COMPUTING IN A STOREROOM FULL OF CLUTTER AND THERE WASN'T ENOUGH ROOM FOR THE STUDENTS. THERE WERE ONLY FOUR OLD COMPUTERS AND THERE ARE 20 STUDENTS IN EACH CLASS SO WE COULDN'T LEARN TOGETHER AT THE SAME TIME' - KARIELI BARERRA BARRIOS, SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENT.

secondary school, we built a brand new computer lab for secondary school students to learn vital skills and be

better prepared for the next stages in their lives.

La Choza Chula raised over \$6000 through crowdfunding to equip the computer lab with 17 high-spec computers featuring up-to-date off-line programmes. The package - provided by Funsepa, a Guatemalan organisation working to improve education through technology - includes ongoing maintenance and support and importantly, local teacher training that reached over 100 teachers from El Paredón and the surrounding communities of Sipacate helping us to extend our reach to more communities outside the village.

With integrated desks and air conditioning, the facility has been named the best in the region and is becoming a community-wide learning resource. Amid much excitement it was officially opened as the Ojah Computer Lab in July, 2016. The lab is named in memory of Dr Ajay K. Ojah who volunteered on the school build in 2014.

THE BUENA VISTA LIBRARY

The Buena Vista library was built in the grounds of the primary school in 2013 primarily to address the low

literacy rates within the village and provide a central community hub for learning. Working in partnership with the primary school, employing a local young lady full-time, we offer a year-round education programme which supplements the formal curriculum. Thanks to the generous support of literacy organisations, private donors and tourists visiting the village who see our online 'Bring a Book' campaign, we now have 2846 books in the library (primarily in Spanish) available for the community.

This year we worked with 140 primary students and 75 secondary students on supporting educational programming. The library provided 250 hours class reading time, 130 hours holiday programme and 400 hours unstructured borrowing time, where students could also play our educational games and do their homework. We lent out 550 books in total to our 60 library members and through our mobile library. 1400 books were read in the library by primary students with 'Where the Wild Things Are', 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' and 'The Mouse Who Wants To Go To The Moon' being the most popular.

MOBILE LIBRARY

In January we set up a mobile library to promote reading to families who do not access the library. Using funds raised by Education Intern Peter Ilchev, we bought a bicycle and once a week our librarian cycled around the village, encouraging people to borrow books. Since the mobile library began it has visited over 100 families, who have already borrowed 300 books.

CLASS READING SESSIONS AND

AFTERNOON SESSIONS

In order to help the school fulfil its national requirement for each child to read for half an hour a week, we deliver weekly reading and writing-based activities to all primary students in the library.

'I LEARNT A LOT OF NEW SKILLS THIS YEAR INCLUDING HOW TO DELIVER CRAFT CLASSES AND HOW TO WORK MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH THE TEACHERS. AN ACHIEVEMENT WAS ATTRACTING MORE NEW CHILDREN TO THE LIBRARY. THE CHILDREN LOVE COMING TO THE LIBRARY TO PLAY WITH THEIR FRIENDS IN THE LOVELY SPACE. THEY LOVE TO READ AND HEAR THE DIFFERENT STORIES AND JOIN IN THE ACTIVITIES WE OFFER.' GABY PEREZ, LIBRARIAN

We also offered an after-school programme including story hours, 10 evening film screenings, a mother and toddler groups and art workshops. These sessions encourage young people to make good use of their spare time and develop their skills in a safe shared environment. Between 150- 200 children attended these sessions each month.

LIBRARY SECOND ANNIVERSARY

On May 12th, the library celebrated its second anniversary by holding a 'Peter Pan' themed day with costumes, a dramatic reading - 'What's the time Captain Hook?', a piñata and a film screening of the Disney classic film.

On 8 September we celebrated 'International Literacy Day' with a treasure hunt, storytelling, puppet show and a prizegiving for those children who had read the most books during the year. Tackling the high illiteracy rates in El Paredón is a key focus for La Choza Chula and these interactive events help fuel a passion for reading.

ENGLISH TEACHING

A majority of tourists visiting El Paredon are English speaking and we believe it is critical for local people to learn English in order to work in this growing industry. This year, our interns and volunteers delivered 179 hours English teaching to 125 primary school students and 75 secondary school students. Next year, we want



to employ a dedicated English teacher who is in post for at least a year to ensure consistency, higher attendance and to deliver a more bespoke curriculum.

HOLIDAY CLUB

The summer holidays in El Paredon last up to three months and during this time many children forget what they have learnt during school that year, become disengaged with education and decide not to continue with their studies. Many children have to stay at home and become bored and restless or work for their parents to keep them occupied. We decided to pilot a holiday programme to address this.

From October to December we ran a seven week pilot programme which was attended by 81 children. We ran 70 sessions in English, maths, art, sport as well as a session for mothers and toddlers. Sessions were delivered by international volunteers and our librarian. Next year, we will train local young people

to help us deliver the programme

Of those who completed the end of programme evaluation:

100% WOULD LIKE THE PROGRAMME TO BE REPEATED

OF THOSE THAT ATTENDED MATHS CLASSES 91% FELT THEIR MATHS SKILLS HAD IMPROVED

OF THOSE THAT ATTENDED ENGLISH CLASSES 83% FELT THEIR ENGLISH SKILLS HAD IMPROVED



ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING

In El Paredón there is a clear lack of access to formal and informal job opportunities for local people. This is due to many reasons including the lack of local businesses, poor transport links to nearby towns and an uneducated workforce.

In order to create employment opportunities for locals, provide an alternative income stream and develop local women business leaders, La Choza Chula delivered 72 hours of Entrepreneurship and Business Skills Training to a group of local women in El Paredón over the course of six months in 2016.

We covered topics such as market research, business development and financial planning, providing the women with the skills and knowledge needed to start their own enterprises and benefit from the growing tourism industry in El Paredón.

At the end of the training all the women had the chance to pitch their ideas to a panel of local judges in an attempt to win start-up capital to help get their businesses off the ground. We were delighted to be able to help the women set up two restaurants, a beauty salon, two clothes shops and a choco-frutas business.

In the coming year La Choza Chula will be starting Enterprise Training in the Secondary School to the next generation of entrepreneurs and we are looking for donations and volunteers to help us deliver the project.

PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

Having been present in the village since 2012 and as the only NGO in El Paredón, La Choza Chula is in a unique position to facilitate partnerships between national and international NGOs, visiting specialists and experts, and the local community. We often act as the bridge between the community for external development and learning opportunities.

TEACHERS 2 TEACHERS

This year La Choza Chula began an exciting new partnership with Teachers2TeachersInternational - a non-profit organisation who in May, brought maths, science and technology focused teacher training to 16 teachers of El Paredón to continue to raise education levels in the village.

Their training had the teachers of El Paredón brimming with ideas of how to teach maths in a more engaging, locally relevant way. The School District Coordinator, who visited the training, felt so positive that she is researching

how to scale up the training for all 400 teachers in the district.

ECO FILTRO

Ecofiltro water filters remove bacteria and parasites from any water source, helping communities gain sustainable access to clean water and in the process improving health and saving families money. In January we partnered with Ecofiltro to bring water filters to El Paredón. They donated water filters to each classroom of both the primary and secondary schools and the Buena Vista Library in order for children to learn the importance of clean drinking water and take the message home. 27 families committed to buying an EcoFiltro for their home.

OTHERS PARTNERS

In July we partnered by travelling artists from MOVART who ran art workshops in the library using natural materials. For International Day of Women and Girls in Science, a visiting volunteer delivered STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) education workshops. We also had a visit from MyBnk's Education Director Sharan Jaswal who came to the library to deliver financial education workshops.

In January documentary photographer Garrett MacLean exhibited portraits of local people he had taken over 3 separate visits in 2015, capturing village life. The photos were exhibited in the local community with a high turn-out from both locals and visiting tourists in town and locals were gifted with a copy of their portrait as a thank you.



SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

La Choza Chula aims to empower local women and youth by creating opportunities to generate supplementary income, in a village where the average wage is around £5 a day, through the production of locally-made products. The project aims to develop their creative skills and introduce the basics of creative enterprise and product development. Our long-term aim is for our social enterprise projects to fund our community development projects.

This year Portuguese product designer, Rita Cortes Valentés, joined us for a 6 month internship helping us to develop and relaunch all our existing products. We designed new catalogues for our products which has proven invaluable in communicating the makers' stories, partnerships and social impact as well as the finer details and qualities of these unique products.

CHULA BRACELETS

Chula Bracelets is one of the original projects from when La Choza Chula began in 2012. Today it consists of a small, focused group of 14-21 year olds making friendship bracelets as a way of developing their creative skills, earning their own independent income and an introduction to creative enterprise. The bracelets are sold in the local hotels in El Paredón, in shops and markets in Antigua and online.

The hang-tags that are attached to each bracelet now feature a space for the maker to personally write their name, adding to the personal touch connecting each customer with their maker.

Recently we have begun to work more in partnership to enable special commissions for different brands, events and projects responding to a client's creative brief. Working like this is a great challenge to produce original designs for makers to be proud of whilst sales continue to provide them with a supplementary income that they spend on clothing, studies and other personal items.

One commission included running apparel brand Janji who donate profits to clean drinking water projects around the world. In January they visited us after working with EcoFiltro and a collaboration began on the themes of "water" and "Guatemala". Bracelets were available to buy online and in their pop-up shop during the Boston Marathon increasing our exposure internationally.

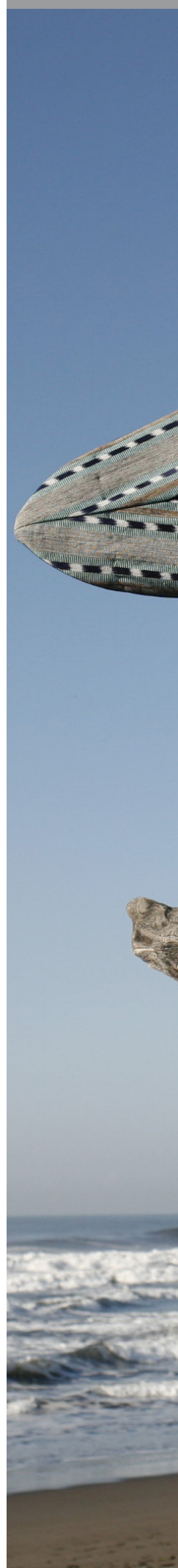
One of makers, Alejandra, 21 has been making bracelets with La Choza Chula for 3 years working from her home in a remote spot up the beach:

'It's hard to find work in the village. As a girl I can't go out fishing at sea, working in the sesame fields is tough in the hot sun all day and it's only seasonal. During the holidays like Christmas and Easter I can work at the local restaurant and bar but it's not the nicest work. Sometimes there are big groups of people drinking and I don't always feel comfortable working there. I prefer to make bracelets, I can make them at home in my own time and I enjoy making them, I'm proud of our talent. It gives me a chance to contribute towards my family but also I can buy things for myself that I really want like clothes. Last year we changed our house with some of the money earned - now our house is more secure made from concrete and no longer from old wood.'

TOTAL CHULA BRACELET SALES: £1000+

TOTAL INCOME FOR MAKERS: £570+

CHULA BRACELETS MADE: 650+





CHULA BAGS

Chula Bags originally began in 2014 with the aim of creating locally made products that would appeal to tourists and provide flexible supplementary income for local women. Working with the original team of 3 local seamstresses, Designer Rita and Creative Manager Carla overhauled the product line to refine and relaunch all aspects from thread to finished product.

The new line of products were launched in May 2016, the surf sock and yoga-mat bag available in 3 colour themes- Ocean, Sand, Sunset.

They feature specially commissioned fabrics made by our new partner, weaving cooperative, La Voz de Los Tzu'tujiles. Using the specialist ikat dyeing technique the fabric is woven in San Juan La Laguna at Lake Atitlan from 100% organic cotton and natural dyes. The unique design represents waves at Lake Atitlan creating a flowing link between the two communities through to the waves here on the coast.

In September 2016 we participated in New World Crafts Fair held in Antigua for the second year running. The export fair, aimed at exposing Guatemalan craft and artisan products to external markets, provided a professional and international platform to present and talk face-to-face with potential buyers. As a result a new Chula Bracelets commission is being developed for Colorado brand Island Farm and a new partnership is being finalised between Chula Bags and a major international online e-commerce platform.

41 CHULA BAGS SOLD

TOTAL INCOME FOR MAKERS: 765+

3 INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

CHULA TOURS

Chula Tours is the award-winning community tourism operator of La Choza Chula. We aim to support, educate and train local people to provide quality, informative, and sustainable tours to visitors of the beautiful village. The tours contribute to the conservation of the local environment as well as providing an alternative income stream for local people.

In 2015-2016 Chula Tours generated £4,500 in income for local tour guides, restaurants and host families. All profits made from the tours are re-invested in La Choza Chula's community development projects.

As well as offering individual tours to visitors of El Paredón, we also offer personalised cultural learning experiences for groups of students and volunteers. Our tailor-made packages include impactful volunteer work on one of our community development programs alongside cultural immersion activities, giving the group a unique opportunity to integrate into the local community while contributing meaningfully to our work in the village. In April we welcomed three groups from Surf for Life, who came to help us build our Computer Lab (see above). The groups volunteered on the construction site in the mornings and took part in community tours and activities in the afternoons. We worked with Surf for Life and the team leaders to create an exciting and varied itinerary that allowed the volunteers to experience life as the locals live it, while leaving a positive and long-lasting impact.

If you are visiting El Paredón, we feel the best way to integrate into the community and get to know the local culture is to stay in one of our homestays with a local host family. La Choza Chula works closely with local

'A WEEK I WILL NEVER FORGET.
THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO!
- CAITLIN BAUNACH, SURF FOR LIFE
VOLUNTEER

families to connect them with travellers who want a more authentic local experience. In 2017 we will be working with more local families to increase our homestay offering and ensure more families can benefit from the growing tourism industry in the area.

We now have a dedicated Facebook page for Chula Tours



from which we publish photos of El Paredón taken on our tours and where guests can leave comments and reviews. We now have a following of over 400 people and

1ST PRIZE IN 'PROGRAMA IMPULSA'

hope to increase this number with focussed marketing campaigns in the next year.

In October Chula Tours won first prize in 'Programa Impulsa', a competition to find up-and-coming social enterprises working in sustainable tourism that have a positive impact on protected areas of Guatemala. 115 enterprises applied and it was an incredibly rewarding experience to share



VOLUNTEERS

We want to thank all those who generously gave their time to volunteer at La Choza Chula over the past year:

Alexis Kheir
Amanda Fried
Caitlin Baunach
Christine Vargas
Daniela Jacobs
December Blossom
Drew Zilli
Garrett MacLean
Greg Villain
Hubi Buchhammer
Ivy Chuang
Jose Alberto Gonzalez Vega
Justine Crosby
Kaitlin Pleas
Krissy Brandlin
Lynne Zaledonis
Michael Borvars
Nick Van Horn
Sharan Jaswal
Shaun
Steve Koch
Trisha Birgsma
Warrior Surf

ideas with other inspiring organisations working to conserve the natural beauty of Guatemala and to generate employment opportunities for local young people. On top of seed-capital to invest in safety equipment and recruitment, we were given the opportunity to pitch Chula Tours at the

‘OUR LIBRARY ACTIVITY WITH THE KIDS WAS AN ABSOLUTE HIGHLIGHT. IT’S SUPER IMPORTANT TO CONNECT THE WORK WE DID ON THE CONSTRUCTION SITE TO THOSE WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM IT!’ -
ALEXIS KHEIR, SURF FOR LIFE VOLUNTEER

National Tourism Congress in Guatemala City, attending by leading figures of the Guatemalan tourism industry.

It has been a very exciting year for Chula Tours and we will be building on these successes in the next year to ensure we continue to create more job opportunities for local people while protecting the fragile ecosystems of the local area. To find out more about Chula Tours please contact us at info@lachoza.chula.org.

PRESS & MEDIA

PRINT

La Choza Chula was featured in two international newspapers this year.

- The Guardian did a feature on the top 10 surf spots in the world and within that talked about our work in El Paredón: <https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2016/aug/06/10-best-surf-locations-in-the-world-cornwall-mexico-mozambique>
- The Financial Times did a long feature on surfing in Guatemala and as part of that covered La Choza Chula and the work we do: <https://www.ft.com/content/25438488-41e3-11e6-9b66-0712b3873ae1>
- Alternative culture magazine HUCK, did a feature focusing on Director Julia's Harriman's life, her journey to El Paredon and starting La Choza Chula. The article was written by Digital Media Manager Ben Crisp with photos shot by regular La Choza Chula contributor Garrett MacLean: <http://www.huckmagazine.com/ride/surf/julia-harriman/>
- Guatemalan journalist Jorge Rodriguez visited El Paredon to write features on the village and on La Choza Chula for community tourism site Revista Vitoria: <http://revistaviatori.com/viajes/paredon-choza-chula/>
- We now have over 2,500 followers on Facebook and over 800 followers on Instagram

FILM - BY BEN CRISP

- [Volunteer Video](#)
- [Buena Vista Library's 2nd Anniversary/ Peter Pan Day](#)
- [La Choza Chula & Surf for Life Build a Computer Lab](#)
- [Fund our Computer Lab](#)
- To see more of La Choza Chula's videography keep checking our vimeo site, linked [here](#).

BOOK



We created an updated hardback, available to buy, detailing our achievements since inception. To order a copy, email info@lchozachula.org.

NEXT STEPS

It has been such an exciting year for La Choza Chula, and we are really looking forward to what the coming year will bring. In 2016-17 we will be building on all of our achievements across the organisation, from education through to community tourism, ensuring the community of El Paredón is in the strongest position possible to benefit from the growing tourism industry in the area and the changes this will inevitably bring.

We will continue working closely with our local librarian and running our education programmes from our 'Buena Vista' Library to give the children of El Paredón a safe place to learn and play. We will be working with partners and supporters to develop projects that will improve the learning environment and standard of education of the local Primary School.

In the Secondary School, we will be working in collaboration with the local director to continue improving the infrastructure of this new education facility. We will also be implementing an Enterprise Training Programme to teach the students the necessary skills to begin their own small enterprises to better prepare them for a future with few prospects of steady employment opportunities in the village. We will be working with the school to ensure the new Computer Lab is used to its full potential and we will be bringing in skilled volunteers to run workshops in the lab, using technology to enhance education.

2016-17 will be a big year for our community tour operator, Chula Tours. 2017 is the United Nations Year of Sustainable Tourism. We will be playing our part in the global movement to foster community development through sustainable and local tourism practices.

We will be constantly improving the tours currently on offer, working closely with our local guides and homestay families to ensure the tours are of the highest quality and they receive training on topics such as customer service, business management and environmental conservation. We are excited to be welcoming a number of groups of students and volunteers in the coming year from organisations such as Carpe Diem and Going Glocal, who will be coming to El Paredón to take part in our cultural immersion programmes in the village.

Thank you to all those who supported us in 2015-16 and we invite you all to join us in 2016-17 to ensure we build on our achievements and increase our impact in coastal communities in Guatemala.

FUNDERS & PARTNERS

Thanks to our mainsupporters this year:

Alterna
 Beach Co. Guatemala Brooks Foundation
 Caoba Farm
 CONAP
 The Driftwood Surfer Hostel
 EcoFiltro
 El Paredón Surf Camp
 Filanthropy
 Fundacion Pantaleon
 Funsepa
 Gavin Grewer
 Gilchrist Foundation
 Hostel Roo
 INGUAT

Janji
 Ladies Who Lunch
 La Voz de Los Tzutujiles
 Larry Persic
 Melt Gallery
 Mutual Aid International
 Pacific Pearls
 Paredón Surf House
 Programa Impulsa
 Samsara
 Surf For Life
 Teachers2Teachers International
 Terry Smith
 Tropicana Hostel

Thanks to all the generous individuals who contributed towards building the computer lab and all our ongoing work.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

La Choza Chula currently depends on donations from individual supporters, online crowdfund campaigns and income generated from our social enterprise projects to continue delivering our community development programmes in El Paredón. Below is a breakdown of the percentages of income and expenditure for the last financial year 2015-16:

INCOME		Percentage of Income %
Community Tourism & Volunteer Groups		37
Products		28
Individual Donations		17
Grants		9
Other Income		8
EXPENDITURE		Percentage of Expenditure %
Education (Library, Primary & Secondary Schools)		30
Social Enterprise (Local makers and materials)		26
Community Tourism (Guides, Hosts and local businesses)		16
Administration costs		14
Rent, Bills and Office Costs		14

Registered Number 487948
La Choza Chula Community Interest Company Ltd
Report and Unaudited Accounts
1 Oct 2015 - 30 September 2016

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La Choza Chula Community Interest Company 487948 Company Information

Directors

Julia Harriman
Ronald Harriman

7 Nursing Home Brae, Pitlochry, Perthshire, Scotland PH16 5HP

Independent Examiner

Ian Rattray

Sunnybrae, 158 Atholl Road, Pitlochry, Perthshire, Scotland PH16 5AR

Registered office

7 Nursing Home Brae, Pitlochry, Perthshire, Scotland PH16 5HP

Registered number 487948

Directors Report

The Directors present their report and accounts for the period ended 30 September 2016

Principal activities this year were:

- We built a computer laboratory in the school, raised funds for 17 computers and ran IT training for 103 teachers
- Ran a diverse education programme in our community library for over 140 children, including class reading sessions, English teaching, arts workshops, a mobile library, holiday programme and maths teacher training
- Developed our community tourism programme Chula Tours
- Delivered enterprise training to women and teenagers resulting in the creation of 6 new businesses
- Created a new range of surf-related artisanal products in collaboration with local women and a women's weaving cooperative at Lake Atitlan
- Hosted three international volunteer groups

The Directors reviewed the current and future forecast performance of the company for the period 12 months from signing of this report. The Directors noted a loss of -£4227 for the period to 30 September 2016. Based on expected income and costs, and the level of cash reserves the Directors concluded that the company would continue for the foreseeable future. Therefore these accounts are prepared on an ongoing concern basis.

The company was incorporated as a Community Interest Company limited by guarantee on 1 October 2014 and it commenced trading at that time.

Directors

The following persons served as Directors during the period:

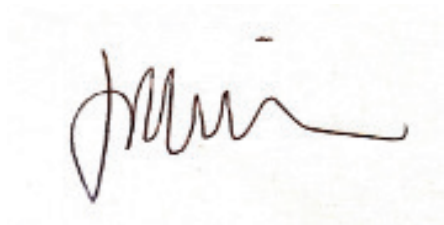
Julia Harriman appointed 1 October 2014

Ronald Harriman appointed 1 October 2014

Small company provisions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

This report was approved by the board on 14 October 2016 and signed on its behalf.



Julia Harriman

Executive Director and Co-Founder
julia@lachozechula.org

Independent Examiner's Report' report to the Board of Directors on the preparation of the unaudited statutory accounts of La Choza Chula Community Interest Company for the period ended 30 September 2015

In order to assist you to fulfil your duties under the Companies Act 2006, I have prepared for your approval the accounts of La Choza Chula Community Interest Company for the period ended 30 September 2016 which comprise of the Profit and Loss Account, the Balance Sheet and the related notes from the company's accounting records and from information and explanations you have given us.

This report is made solely to the Board of Directors of La Choza Chula Community Interest Company as a body. My work has been undertaken solely to prepare for your approval the accounts La Choza Chula Community Interest Company. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than La Choza Chula Community Interest Company and its Board of Directors.

It is your duty to ensure that La Choza Chula Community Interest Company has kept adequate accounting records and to prepare statutory accounts that give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and loss of La Choza Chula Community Interest Company. You consider that La Choza Chula Community Interest Company is exempt from the statutory audit requirement for the period.

I have not been instructed to carry out an audit or a review of the accounts of La Choza Chula Community Interest Company. For this reason, I have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations you have given to me and I do not, therefore, express any opinion on the statutory accounts.



Ian Rattray
Sunnybrae, 158 Atholl Road
Pitlochry
Perthshire
Scotland
PH16 5AR

La Choza Chula Community Interest Company Profit and Loss Account for the period from 1 October 2015 to 30 September 2016	2015 - 16 (£)
TURNOVER	35,732
COST OF SOCIAL PROJECTS	32,010
GROSS PROFIT	3,722
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	7,949
OPERATING PROFIT (NOTE 3)	- 4,227

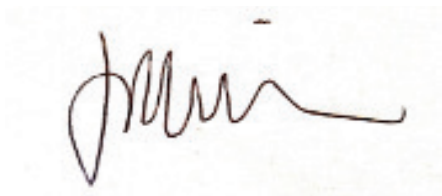
La Choza Chula Community Interest Company Balance Sheet as at 30 September 2016	2015 -16 (£)
Cash at bank and in hand	1, 880
Shareholders funds	1, 880

The Directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the requirement to obtain an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

The Directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.



Julia Harriman
Director/ co-Founder

Approved by the board on 14.10.16
The notes are an integral part of these accounts

Notes to the Accounts for the period from 1 October 2015 to 30 September 2016

1. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

The Directors reviewed the current and future forecast performance of the company for the period 12 months from signing of these accounts. The Directors noted the loss of -£4,227 for the period to 30 September 2016. Based on expected income and costs, and the level of cash reserves the Directors concluded that the company would continue for the foreseeable future. Therefore these accounts are prepared on an ongoing concern basis.

Turnover

Turnover represents the value of grants and donations and goods and services provided to customers

Foreign currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate at the end of each month.

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date.

Pensions

The company operates no defined contribution pension scheme.

2. Turnover 2015

Turnover attributable to geographical markets outside the UK	100%
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3 .Operating profit	-£4227
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This is stated after charging:

4. Directors' remuneration	£1840
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5. Tangible fixed assets	None
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6. Debtors	£4022
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7. Creditors	£301.33
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8. Profit and loss account

Profit for the period	-£4227
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9. Pension commitments	None
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10. Related party transactions 2015 /16

J Harriman, Director

J Harriman received a salary of £1840 during the year. £231.33 was owed to J Harriman at the year end. J Harriman did not owe any monies.

R Harriman, Director

R Harriman received no remuneration for his role as Director. No monies were owed to or owing from R Harriman at the year end.

11 Ultimate controlling party

The company is limited by Guarantee. The Directors have provided a guarantee to the company of £1 each. The company is controlled by the Directors with equal votes.



Ian Rattray

www.lachozachula.org

facebook.com/chozachula

instagram.com/lachozachula

Email: info@lachozachula.org



Designed by Ben Crisp